

## CLAIMS

1. A wound dressing material comprising a charcoal cloth wherein the charcoal is coated with a substantially water-insoluble polymer.
- 5 2. A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the substantially water-insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of chitosan, insoluble alginates, insoluble cellulose derivatives, insoluble starch derivatives, albumin, guar gum, pectins, gelatins, hyaluronates, hemicellulose, chitin, agar,  
10 xanthan, starch, amylose, amylopectin, alternan, gellan, mutan, dextran, pullulan, fructan, locust bean gum, carrageenan, glycogen, glycosaminoglycans and collagen
3. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the  
15 dry weight ratio of the water insoluble polymer to the charcoal is from about 0.1 to about 1.
4. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the water insoluble polymer is present as a thin film coating on the charcoal.
- 20 5. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the material has a water absorbency of at least about 0.5g/g.
6. A wound dressing comprising a wound dressing material according to any  
25 preceding claim.
7. A wound dressing according to claim 5 which is sterile, and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.
- 30 8. A method of making a wound dressing material comprising the steps of impregnating a charcoal cloth with a dispersion of a polymer or polymer precursor in a solvent, followed by drying the charcoal cloth to leave a coating of water-insoluble polymer on the charcoal.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the dispersion is a solution of the polymer or polymer precursor in water, and the method further comprises a step of treating the polymer or polymer precursor after said step of impregnating to render  
5 it insoluble in water.
10. A method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the step of drying comprises freeze-drying.
- 10 11. A method according to any of claims 8 to 10 for the production of a wound dressing material according to any of claims 1 to 5.